ATHERFIELD ACADE

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2nd May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

The Trustees of Weatherfield held interviews for the position of Head of School on Wednesday 1st May. A number of applicants were interviewed, including myself. Following the interviews, I was delighted to be offered and have accepted, the position of Head of School. Since stepping into the Interim position of Head of School in January, I have focussed on continuing the traditions and routines that make Weatherfield the special place that it is.

My focus, working with Trustees, Governors and Senior Leaders, will be to continue to build on the success of Weatherfield, by developing our curriculum to meet the needs of our learners and investing in staff training and development. We will continue our plans to establish an additional site under the Weatherfield Trust, in order to meet demand for pupil places. Key to all of this will be the continued support of our valued staff, you as parents and the communities in which we live.

Transitions

As we progress through the summer term, there will be a number of transition events taking place. These will be for both for older learners, who will be leaving us to continue their learning pathway elsewhere and for new pupils, who will be joining us in September. For parents of learners in Year 11 and Year 14, the leaving dates for these year groups will Friday 28th June and Friday 5th July respectively.

Practice for Lock Down Procedure

We have been discussing for a while the best way to practice a 'Lock Down' procedure within our setting. There will be four phases of practice in a staged approach over the next 6 - 12 months. We have decided to try first phase Lock Down practice this Friday. As part of this practice, individual class teachers will discuss and prepare their learners for this in a way that is appropriate for them. The practice for this first stage will consist of closing all doors and asking staff to shut windows and close blinds, then for learners to sit quietly in their classrooms. At each practice, another layer will be added, so that hopefully in time, we will be able to complete a full Lock Down as a routine. Feedback is key to this process and we will review and reflect on every stage of the Lock Down practice.

Focus for Half Term - Maths

Last week there were a number of monitoring walks looking at how Maths is taught across the Academy. We were very pleased to be join by one of our Governors for this review of Maths. This included visiting Maths lessons, looking at the books, talking to learners and reviewing the curriculum to ensure it continues to adapt and develop to meet the needs of our learners.

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SNAP Information

Please see attached to this newsletter are details of a Neurodiverse digital booklet for parents and children provided by the SNAP Parent/Carer Forum. There is a barcode to scan or website to visit for further details.

Just a reminder that Monday 6th May is a Bank Holiday, so we will all return to the Academy on Tuesday 7th May following a lovely long weekend! I hope the weather is better than of late and that you all enjoy.

Yours sincerely

Mr L Meenan
Head of School

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